



New Locality Record of the Lesser Foamfrog (*Leptodactylus macrosternum*) in Eastern Trinidad

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The Lesser Foamfrog (*L. macrosternum*) is a medium-sized terrestrial anuran (males 75 mm, females 80 mm SVL (Murphy et al. 2018; Medeiros Magalhães et al. 2020). Males have enlarged forearms and two spines on each thumb when breeding (Heyer 2014; Murphy et al. 2018). Vocalization can be a growl, trill, or grunt; the first most frequently used by males during breeding (Fouquette 1960; Heyer and Giaretta 2009; Medeiros Magalhães et al. 2020).

Leptodactylus macrosternum is widely distributed across South America, with a range of >4,000 km² extending from

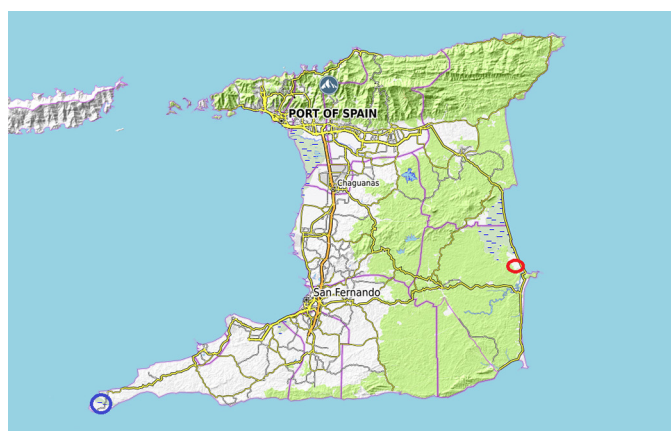


Figure 2. OpenStreetMap[®] of Trinidad showing localities where Lesser Foam Frogs (*Leptodactylus macrosternum*) have been documented. The blue circle marks the previously recorded site and the red oval indicates the new locality reported herein (map available under the Open Database License).



Figure 1. A Lesser Foam Frog (*Leptodactylus macrosternum*) (KUDA 14044) found at a new locality at Nariva, along a tributary of the Ortoire River on the eastern coast of Trinidad. Photograph by Zakariyya Ali.

southern Argentina and the Brazilian coast of Bahia north to the Guiana Shield (Barrio-Amorós 2004; Murphy et al. 2018; Medeiros Magalhães et al. 2020). One previously documented locality on Trinidad, which was misidentified as *L. latrans* (Kenny 1977; Murphy 1997; Murphy et al. 2018) on the island’s southwestern peninsula is thought to be the result of a recent colonization event. Herein we present a second record of *Leptodactylus macrosternum* (Fig. 1) from Nariva, along a tributary of the Ortoire River on the eastern coast of Trinidad (10.34759 N, 61.00483 W; elev. 5 m asl) (Fig. 2).

At 2100 h on 22 July 2023 on the Cascadoo trace Nariva, we encountered, photographed, and released at the site of capture, an adult *Leptodactylus macrosternum*. Photographic vouchers were deposited in the University of Kansas Digital Archive (KUDA 14044), and the identity of the species was confirmed from photographs by Renoir Auguste. This new record is ~100 km from the previously recorded site, suggesting that this was the result of an independent colonization

event, presumably originating in the Orinoco drainages, the source of other Trinidadian herpetofauna such as *Eunectes murinus* and *Podocnemis unifilis* as well as several species of freshwater/estuarine fishes (Murphy 1997; Phillips et al. 2013; Mohammed et al. 2014; Murphy et al. 2018).

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